GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4580
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PRODUCTION OF COCONUT
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total coconut production in the country for the last three years;

(b) whether the coconut production has gone down during the last two yeas and current year;

(c) if so, whether the Government has taken any effective measures to support the coconut growers of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to eliminate the disease of coconut plants?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA):

(a) and (b) The total coconut production in the country for the last three years is as given below:

Year	Production (Million Nuts)
2000-01	12678.4
2001-02	12963.2
2002-03	12141.2

During 2000-01 and 2001-02 coconut production has increased by 4.53 per cent and 2.25 per cent respectively over the previous years. During 2002-03 the production has decreased by 6.34 per cent.

(c) and (d) Various development programmes are being implemented through the Coconut Development Board under the Scheme for `Integrated Development of Coconut Industry` and `Technology Mission on Coconut`, for the benefit of farmers. The major components of the scheme. I.Integrated farming in coconut holding for productivity Improvement, production and distribution of quality planting material, market Intelligence and Market promotion. The total outlay for X Plan is Rs. 150 crore and for current year is Rs. 20 crore. Every year the Government of India declares minimum support price for milling copra and edible copra to ensure minimum support price to the farmer. The support price declared for the year 2005 season for milling copra is Rs. 3570 per quintal and that for edible copra is Rs. 3820 per quintal.

(e) For the management of disease, the following programmes are under implementation during 2004-05. Integrated Farming in Coconut Holding for Productivity Improvement The objective of the programme is to improve production and productivity of the coconut holdings through an integrated approach and thereby increasing the net income from unit holdings with the following components.

(a) Management of disease affected palms To check the spread of the root wilt disease in Kerala, Tanjore wilt in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh by cutting and removal of disease affected palms and subsequent management of disease affected holdings. Management of holdings is treated under separate programme for productivity improvement. An amount of Rs. 250/- per palm is provided as an incentive for removal of disease advanced palms. Up to 2003-04, 25.93 lakhs root (wilt) disease advanced palms were removed in Kerala by extending financial assistance of Rs. 47.24 crores under various programme of the Board. During the tenth plan period it is proposed to cut and remove 7.159 lakh disease advanced palms with a financial out lay of Rs. 1788.40 lakhs.

(b) Laying out of Demonstration Plots Financial assistance of Rs. 35,000/- per ha in two annual installments is provided for adoption of integrated management practices for increasing the productivity of disease affected gardens. The total financial outlay earmarked for the X plan period is Rs. 1448.690 lakhs covering an area of 4330 ha.

(c) Assistance for organic manure units Recycling of organic waste through composting is one of the management disease management. In order to promote the use or organic manures like vermi compost, choir pitch compost, in the coconut holdings

financial assistance of Rs. 20,000/- per unit is provided. During X plan, it is proposed to establish 1500 units with a financial assistance of Rs. 298.80 lakhs.

II. Technology Mission on Coconut The objective of the programme is to improve the productivity through an integrated management of pest and diseases of coconut gardens. Under the mission financial assistance is provided for development of technologies @ 100% of the project cost upto a maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs for Government institutions and 50% of the project cost not exceeding Rs. 25.00 lakhs for NGOs and other private organizations. Similarly for Technology Demonstrations through Government institutions, assistance is extended @ 100% of the project cost not exceeding Rs. 25.00 lakhs and 50% of the cost not exceeding Rs. 10.00 lakhs in the case of adoption of Technology, 25% of the project cost is provided as assistance. So far an assistance of Rs. 16.98 crores has been provides for 24 projects.